

(Washington DC) Congressman Charlie Gonzalez applauds the House Appropriations Committee for approving approved his funding requests for 1) Main Plaza redevelopment, 2) the extension of 36th Street and 3) upgrading VIA buses and their bus maintenance facility. A total of \$700,000 was included in the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Bill. The full House will vote on the legislation and then await consideration and possible modification in the Senate.

"I would like to thank the Appropriations Committee for these much needed funds that will improve the quality of life for our community," said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez. "As a result, our city will be more beautiful and have a stronger, more diverse economic base.

I am especially pleased that VIA will receive much needed funds to upgrade their buses and bus maintenance facility, which, in turn, will lead to improved service for riders."

"Congressman Gonzalez has always been an advocate for public transportation in San Antonio, and he continues to support any initiatives that help VIA Metropolitan Transit fulfill its mission. We are grateful for his efforts, especially his recent work in securing federal funding to rebuild VIA's maintenance facility," stated Tim Tuggey, Chair, VIA Board of Trustees.

"VIA's vehicle maintenance facility was built in the 1940s, and its central location and operational facilities have worked well to keep the buses running. But this facility is no longer sufficient to meet today's demands and technologies. Mr. Gonzalez's assistance in landing this funding is very much appreciated."

"The funding for the Main Plaza project will allow San Antonio to reinvigorate the cultural and historic heart of our city," continued Congressman Gonzalez. "Our community can begin to implement much needed restoration and functional improvements to the locus of San Antonio's rich culture and long history.

The funding for the 36th street extension will put San Antonio one step closer to completing KellyUSA. Once finished, these improvements will facilitate KellyUSA's goal to be a critical hub for rail, air and ground commerce thus ensuring that San Antonio will continue to be a vital artery for Texas and the United States."

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